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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
 INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE:

SUBJECT Efforts to Establish a Spanish Labor Party

INFO. See Text

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DIST. 21 November 1946

ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT 25X1X

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1. According to a Spanish republican who had reached Bayonne by late September 1946, having come from Spain, Franco plans to allow the constitution of four parties, which would appear to present opposition to the present regime, but which in reality would be controlled by it. The emissary from the interior said that Socialist and CNT elements had been approached with regard to forming part of the proposed organizations, and that while the former did not accept the proffered invitation, certain sectors of the CNT were disposed to consider the invitation.
2. A Prieto Socialist of Madrid stated on 14 October that it had been rumored for some time that four pseudo-opposition parties were to be created. According to the rumor, one was to be a Traditionalist party, headed by President of the Cortes Esteban Bilbao; another, a Monarchist party, headed by the Duke of Alba; a third, a Social-Christian party; and, fourth, a labor party.
3. According to the Socialist, as of mid-October definite efforts were being made to constitute a labor party. He mentioned in this connection that some five months previously he and his confreres had been approached by Sanchez Requena and a certain Caminero, of the CNT,* who proposed that the Socialists collaborate with Minister of Labor Giron in the formation of a labor party. The Socialists, he said, rejected the proposal. The informant added that the same persons, together with certain Falangists, as of 14 October were attempting again to realize their plan. He described Sanchez Requena and Caminero as persons of no standing, who had been repudiated by the working class.
4. On 4 October, a member of the Union Republicana stated that he had had definite news of a meeting held between elements of the CNT, on one hand, and Labor Minister Giron, Minister of Justice Raimundo Fernandez Cuesta, and Vice Secretary of the Falange Rodrigo Vivar Telles, on the other, at

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Comment: Sanchez Requena and Caminero reportedly are leaders of the Syndicalist Party in Valencia and in Madrid respectively. This party was founded well before the Spanish Civil War by Angel Pestana, after his expulsion from the CNT. Sanchez Requena was negotiating with Giron in November 1945 for the constitution of a labor party.

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which the formation of a labor party was discussed. Giron, Fernandez Cuesta and Vivar Tellez, all of whom are prominent Falangists, reportedly told the CNT members that, should agreement be reached, funds would be made available to them for the purpose of establishing the party and suggested that Cipriano Mera, a well-known Genetista, should be asked to figure in the formation of the party.* The informant stated that Mera was released from prison in late September or early October.**

5. A CNT member stated that by 5 October Mera had been contacted with regard to his participating in the formation of a labor party. While Mera reportedly was warned by a member of a CNT committee that the confederation forbade him to maintain any relations with persons involved in the formation of the party, it was the informant's opinion that Mera might effect some contact discreetly.
6. According to the Union Republicana member mentioned in paragraph 4, by 9 October, Giron, Vivar Tellez and Fernandez Cuesta had enlisted the aid of Orbaneja, former Director General of Security for their project. Reportedly, Orbaneja had entered various prisons and had conversed with some of the inmates who had been incarcerated for political offenses.***
7. Another member of the Union Republicana affirmed on 15 October that through Orbaneja the three above-mentioned Falange leaders had contacted the Genetistas Santa Maria and Luque.

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8. The significance of the following information as related to that contained in the previous paragraphs is not clear. It is based on statements made by a person from Barcelona whom source describes as meriting confidence. Reportedly, a labor party with Tomas Gomez Pinan as Secretary General had been established by late August. The nucleus of the party was composed of former trade-union leaders of the CNT, of the Syndicalist Party created by Angel Pestana, and of certain Prieto Socialists. The group was described as openly anti-Communist and claimed a membership of some 8,000 persons. Meetings of the party's executive committee were held in Barcelona, at the home of Gomez Pinan. Gomez Pinan is a lawyer, a former university professor, and at one time was a priest. For a period during the German occupation of France, Gomez Pinan was Paris head of the military information service attached to the Spanish High General Staff.****

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Mera was illiterate until he was an adult; he learned to read when he was imprisoned in the Carcel Modelo of Madrid in 1923. He has figured prominently in strikes and acts of violence in Madrid organized by the CNT and has strongly opposed communism. In the early part of the Spanish Civil War, he held the post of Political Commissar in the Fifth Army Corps, under the orders of Miguel Palacios. At the end of the war, Mera commanded the forces which clashed with the Communist army corps in Madrid. On that occasion, he acted under the direct orders of Segismundo Casado, who headed the Junta de Defensa.

**The 5 October issue of Espana Libre, organ of the pro-government CNT group in France, carried a Febus agency dispatch concerning the decision of the Spanish Council of Ministers to release Cipriano Mera and Joaquin Maurin. According to the notice, the two men had been imprisoned since 1939.

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**Sergio Orbaneja, former chief of police in Madrid, was released from Yesseras Prison on 20 June 1946 and re-entered the institution on 5 July. Prior to his release on 20 June, he reportedly tried to convince certain of his fellow prisoners that trade-union groups opposed to the regime should come to an agreement with the Falangists.

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Tomas Gomez Pinan was in Paris from 1939 to 1942. Until the fall of France, he was an agent of the Spanish military information service; after that time, he was connected with the Spanish Consulate as legal advisor. In the latter capacity, he received many German officials and made numerous trips between Spain and France until his return to Barcelona in 1942. Source described Gomez Pinan as a very clever, completely unscrupulous person. Various reasons for Gomez Pinan's departure from Paris are given by numerous sources; he is said to have been suspected of anti-German sympathies, currency smuggling and intelligence work with the Allies.

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